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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/674,304	08/06/2001	Yutaka Yamagata	107734	5220

25944 7590 10/22/2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

GORDON, BRIAN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1743

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/674,304

Applicant(s)

YAMAGATA ET AL.

Examiner

Brian R. Gordon

Art Unit

1743

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Brian R. Gordon.

(3) _____

(2) Leana Levin.

(4) _____

Date of Interview: 19 October 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: Jones et al. and Anscherlik.

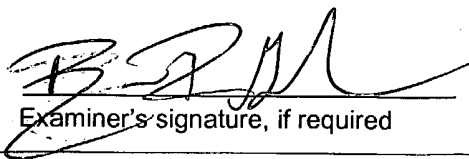
Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The examiner informed applicant that he is a junior examiner and cannot determine patentability without conferring with his SPE. The examiner further stated that the case was transferred to him and while an amendment had already been filed he would listen to applicant's comments. With respect to the prior art of Anscherlik applicant stated the tube 2 is not the same as the discharging tube of the instant invention for the tube 2 is "an introducing tube". The examiner disagreed, the examiner stated applicant has elected to call the tube a discharging tube. The examiner stated the tube could be referred to as a liquid transfer (movement, flow, etc.) tube. However, the examiner state tube 2 is used to discharge liquid from vessel 1 and introduce the liquid into vessel 8. As such, the tube maybe classified as a discharging tube as well. Applicant further stated that the tube 2 of Anscherlik and the tube of Jones does not have an inlet positioned at almost the same level positioned desired (as claimed). The examiner attempted to explain to applicant that the term "almost" is relative to one's perspective. What one person may consider as "almost" or "close" the next person may not. The claim does not provide any numerical values for one to determine or associate a specific distance or position of the tube (in relationship to any of the other elements claimed). The examiner also explained that "the desired liquid level" is not a structural limitation. It can be any level that any person desires. Applicant explained that the device of Anscherlik does not work or function the same as the instant invention. However, the examiner explained to applicant that the prior art is not required to be used exactly as that as intended by applicant. As to Jones et al., applicant stated the prior art is different in being used in a different field specifically for transferring or holding mud. The examiner explained the while applicant invention is intended to be used with liquid and the prior art is associated with mud there is no indication that the device of Jones is not capable of being used with liquid. Applicant further argued that the instant invention would not function if used with mud. The examiner explained that the instant invention is not required to function as that of the prior art when determining patentability. The prior art is only required to be structurally equivalent to that being claimed. Applicant further stated that the claimed invention is "a liquid treating equipment" while the prior art is not for treating liquid. The examiner informed applicant that while applicant has elected to call or refer to the device as "liquid treating equipment" the name does not add any structure limitations to the device. There are no structural limitations following the preamble that are further associated with any type of liquid treatment. The examiner stated the preamble may or may not be structurally limiting. In the instant case, the preamble does not provide for any structural limitations. If the device had been named anything else it would still include the same limitations following the preamble resulting in the same structural arrangement. Furthermore intended use clauses are not considered to add structural limitations to the claim. The examiner informed applicant that after a cursory review of the filed amendment it appears as if applicant chose not to amend the claims to overcome the previous art rejections (eventhough allowable subject matter was indicated) made by the previous examiner and in reviewing the previous rejections, the examiner at this point considers the rejections proper and would more than likely be maintained in the next office action.